

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing rumpling of metallic components, comprising the application of a ceramic coating ~~other than aluminum oxide based on ZrO₂~~ having a thickness of less than 50 µm to a metallic component whereby the ceramic coating forms an exposed outer layer.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 characterized in that the thickness of the coating is up to 30 µm.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, characterized in that the metallic component being coated has an oxidation protection coating to which the ceramic coating is applied.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, characterized in that the oxidation protection coating is an aluminum-containing metallic oxidation protection coating.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, characterized in that the thickness of the ceramic coating is less than 20 µm.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, characterized in that the ceramic coating consists of an oxidic ceramic material.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, characterized in that the thickness of the ceramic coating is at least 10 µm.

8. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a metallic component comprises applying a thin ceramic coating having a thickness of up to 30 μm to said component, said ceramic coating forming an exposed outer layer.

9. (Original) The process according to claim 8, characterized in that said coating is produced by electron beam physical vapor deposition (EB-PVD) or air plasma spraying (APS).

10. (Original) The process according to claim 8, characterized in that said coating is produced by chemical vapor deposition (CVD), electrophoresis followed by microwave sintering, or dip coating with ceramic precursors followed by sintering.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said metallic component is a rotor or stator.

12. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 8 wherein said metallic component is a rotor or stator.

13. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 8 wherein said ceramic coating is free of aluminum oxide.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a metallic component such as a rotor or stator against the effects of rumpling, comprising the steps of applying an oxidation protection coating directly to the metallic component and thereafter apply a ceramic coating having a thickness of less than 50 μm to said oxidation protection coating, said ceramic coating forming an exposed outer layer.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (New) The process of claim 8 wherein said oxidation protection coating is first applied to said metallic component and said ceramic coating is applied over said oxidation protection coating.